



Pittwater House

# Class of 2022 Achievements and Results





98.45

Top ATAR  
Dux of Boys' Grammar  
**Aaron Jia**



98.3

Dux of Girls' College  
**Liliana Edwards**



100%

of students  
achieved Bands  
5/6 across 10  
subjects



44%

of students  
reached  
Distinguished  
Achievers list including  
15 accelerated  
Year 11 students



79%

Students  
received pre-HSC first  
round university offers  
with over **50%** receiving  
multiple offers



1 in 4

students  
achieved  
an ATAR of 90+



# Congratulations



We are incredibly proud of our Class of 2022 and their teachers for the hard work and dedication they have shown these past two years. All of our students have shown tremendous maturity, integrity, and respect for each other, exemplifying our HEROIC Core Values and, of course, our School motto *semper diligens* – always hardworking.

Individually, we wish to celebrate our Dux of Boys' Grammar, Aaron Jia (ATAR: 98.45) and our Dux of Girls' College, Liliana Edwards (ATAR: 98.3) for their fine results, following their years of hard work and diligence.

In a demonstration of our students' exceptional growth this year, our Band 6 results have doubled. Commendations go to all 39 students – an impressive 44% of those that sat the HSC – who collectively achieved a remarkable 68 Band 6 results (a mark of 90+) across 23 subjects, including 15 accelerated Year 11 students who achieved Band 6 results in Dance, Swedish, Mathematics Advanced and Studies of Religion.

Notable results were achieved by students in specific subjects, with 100% of students achieving the top two Bands in Ancient History (state average 33.35), Drama (58.44), English Extension 1 (92.36), English Extension 2 (84.88), History Extension (83.51), Mathematics Extension 2 (85), Music 1 (69.06), Music 2 (86.1), Swedish and Visual Arts (65.62).

I am pleased to report that 79% of the cohort have received early entry to their chosen university course, with more than half of those in receipt of multiple university offers from 24 institutions spanning five states.

Of the five students that had not applied to university in Australia, one will study in the United States, one will return to the United Kingdom, one has secured a mechanical apprenticeship and two are yet to make plans.

I commend this cohort for their dedication to sports, creativity, and the strong leadership skills they have shown. These skills will place them in good stead for their bright and evolving futures.

We hope you will join us in wishing our Class of 2022 every success in whatever post-school pathway they choose to take.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nancy Hillier', with a flourish at the end.

**Dr Nancy Hillier**

Principal (BA, DipEd, MEdSt, DEd, MACE, MACEL, MAICD)

# Liliana Edwards

Dux of Girls' College, ATAR 98.3



## **How did your teachers contribute to your success?**

I could not have found the success I did without my teachers. In Years 11 and 12, my teachers (irrespective of subject) challenged me to reach my full potential and worked alongside me to ensure I was producing a high quality of work. My teachers were a crucial part of my support network in Year 12, and every one of them gave up so much of their time for our entire year group. I will be forever thankful for their efforts, and the success I found is as much a reflection of them, as it is of me.

## **What was your favourite subject and why?**

While I loved all my classes, my favourite would have to be Modern History. Ever since I was young, I've loved history, and as I become older, I am fascinated by how it shapes the way society functions today. Modern History encapsulated every part of that interest. Ideally, you don't want a subject to feel like work and Modern History didn't. From the research to the arguments, to the essay writing, there wasn't one topic of this subject I didn't thoroughly enjoy.

## **Overall, how would you describe your time at the School?**

School allowed me to find my love for research, particularly in HSIE and English. However, beyond study, I found incredible people and made memories that I'll forever look back on with positivity. Years 11 and 12 were challenging but enjoyable nonetheless, due in no small part to my peers and teachers who made school what it was.

# Aaron Jia

Dux of Boys' Grammar, ATAR 98.45



## **What was your favourite subject and why?**

My favourite subject in my final year of School was economics because it is a subject that has daily relevance. I found the cause and effect of events in economics really interesting; how for any one event in economics there is always an effect on another event and so on. My teacher, Mrs Lehman, made every lesson entertaining and enjoyable, inspiring me to try my hardest throughout the year.

## **What co-curricular or other activities/practices did you do to balance your commitment to your studies?**

I took 12 units during Year 12 (2 more than required) so it was crucial for me to participate in activities to avoid burning myself out with studies. I continued to represent the School in basketball during my final year. Playing basketball has always been a great way for me to relax and hang out with my friends. I also continued to go to the gym on a regular basis even during the exam week to ensure I maintained good physical health throughout the HSC.

## **How did your peers contribute to your success?**

Spending time with my friends was a great way to refresh myself from the stressful times during Year 12. They also gave me motivation to do better, as we competed academically. The help they provided was also a factor that enabled me to finish the HSC with a positive mindset.

## **What advice would you give students undertaking their HSC in future years?**

Make sure you learn all the concepts as your teacher teaches them and when you are given assessments get them done as soon as possible, as something unexpected might pop up. Simply doing past papers won't help you much, so make sure you go over what you got wrong.

# Tessa Beard

ATAR 98.15



## **How do you feel the Pittwater House structure of single-sex classes within a co-ed campus, affected your education?**

The single-sex classes in early Senior School created a 'no-pressure' classroom environment while still allowing us to build friendships and interact with the boys at lunch. The co-ed classrooms and shared common room space in Years 11 and 12 allowed us to develop into a year group that got along really well. We were able to get to know each other in the maturity of our later school years, which helped us to develop strong and healthy friendships that will last well beyond Senior School.

## **Overall, how would you describe your time at the School?**

I have felt so at home at Pittwater House. Since Year 7, I've felt supported and nurtured by the teachers and have loved the hardworking yet down-to-earth atmosphere of the School. With the broad range of subjects available, I felt like I could express myself authentically at Pittwater House. I was guided and encouraged to excel yet given the space to be an individual. The School allowed me to thrive in my own education, especially while working on three creative major works during Years 11 and 12.

## **What advice would you give students undertaking their HSC in future years?**

My advice is this: make it your ambition to look after yourself. Choose the subjects you love, listen in class and try your best. Take regular breaks in nature (I often went to Freshwater beach), get into the sport you love (for me, rock climbing) and continue to see friends and family. You are more than just a student doing the HSC and life is so much bigger than this year.

# Jamie Stodart

ATAR 98.25



## **What co-curricular or other activities/practices did you do to balance your commitment to your studies?**

Throughout Senior School I did my best to get involved with many activities ranging from sport to academics to cadets. This helped me accumulate a wide range of skills which have prepared me for facing challenges and managing life in general. During Year 12 I was involved in sailing and also played basketball for the School. I found it quite important to completely escape from schoolwork. Having to make time for my studies as well as these activities really developed my organisational skills because I wanted to use my time as effectively as I could. I realised early on that participating in activities that I enjoyed and allocating time when I could focus on my schoolwork reduced the opportunity to procrastinate and waste valuable time.

## **What advice would you give students undertaking their HSC in future years?**

Be self-aware and analytical. By that I mean look at how you behave and work, mainly how this impacts how much time you have throughout the day. If you're always having a couple hours of homework in the afternoon and being unproductive in free periods during school, consider moving to a place where you can focus during free periods or finding a strategy to be more productive in class. This applies to identifying distractions as well. In Year 12 I noticed I was spending an hour or two on my phone, mainly on Instagram so I deleted it along with many of the games I had.

## **How did your peers contribute to your success?**

I was always surrounded by a great group of mates. This can sometimes be distracting but having friends who were always around to make me laugh and give insight into problems or assignments when I needed it was very helpful. Essentially, they helped me balance the workload with enjoyment and made Year 12 fun.

# Olivia Butcher

2022 Head College Prefect, ATAR 94.55



## **How do you feel the Pittwater House structure of single-sex classes within a co-ed campus, affected your education?**

I think the single-sex classrooms throughout Junior School and the early stages of Senior School helped me to stay focused and build my self-confidence. It provided a learning environment that was supportive and encouraging which helped to shape my attitude and behaviour at school.

Outside the classroom, the co-ed campus allowed me to socialise with the boys during recess, lunch, on school excursions and at the various sporting carnivals. Friendships within our year group flourished as we all grew up together.

The introduction of co-ed classes for our Years 9 and 10 electives eased us into the transition to fully co-ed classes for Years 11 and 12. By then, our constant, side by side learning and interaction with the boys, further developed and promoted a feeling of comradeship, trust, tolerance, gender equality and co-operation amongst the year group.

A co-ed campus also meant that my two brothers and I could attend the same school. I think those shared formative experiences enhance the value of family and community and of course, provided a significant practical benefit for Mum and Dad.

## **What co-curricular or other activities/practices did you do to balance your commitment to your studies?**

I trained regularly to keep fit and to help me deal with the pressures associated with my Year 12 school responsibilities and HSC studies. I am an enthusiastic runner, touch football player and work out in the gym lifting weights. I have thoroughly enjoyed participating in the athletic and swimming carnivals and Pittwater House team sports competitions.

My dedication and commitment to our co-curricular programs has been instrumental in my development as a student. Taking time off from my academic workload to play sport and connect with my friends gave me a break from my schoolwork and helped me to balance my study schedule. I also met many students from different schools with similar interests to me, so it was a great way to make new friends and share experiences which helped to make me a better student and athlete.



# Jared Buckton

2022 Head Grammar Prefect, ATAR 91.95



## **How do you feel the Pittwater House structure of single-sex classes within a co-ed campus, affected your education?**

Being in single-sex classes throughout the Junior years allowed us to mature into focused, driven students. Then as we moved into some co-ed classes in our Senior years, we were able to maintain that positive, respectful learning environment that was embedded during our younger years.

## **What is your proudest school moment/achievement?**

During my time at Pittwater House, I'm most proud of my continued involvement in the School's rugby team. Each year we'd have many students who'd never played before, join the team. Seeing all of us grow from a group of individuals on the field, into a team that worked together, was a testament to our School's community spirit. Being part of a team that, together, as new and old players, could share smiles, laughs and our success on the field, is something I'm really proud of.

## **What advice would you give students undertaking their HSC in future years?**

The HSC is a marathon. Each class you go to, each subject you take, the exams, the study sessions – they're all another step toward your goal. Despite the challenges you'll face throughout the year, what will remain true is your work ethic and dedication. What you put in is what you'll get out. There's so much to look forward to, in and beyond the classroom. Appreciate every moment as the time will fly by.



## **What was your favourite subject and why?**

My favourite subject this year was English with Mr Hine. This was a surprise to me as I had been particularly challenged with this subject in previous years due to my strong opinion that subjective marking should be eliminated from the curriculum (as I saw everyone's perspective of literature to be very subjective). However, when Mr Hine clearly explained the evaluation criteria and guided me to continuously improve my work against an "objective" standard of academic excellence, I soon came to the realisation that literature could indeed, be critiqued objectively. By the end of the year, I finished top of my class with a 92% average. I can thank Mr Hine not only for his exemplary teaching skills and patience with my work, but also for my love of English now.

## **In what way did the challenges of 2021 and 2022 help you grow personally?**

During the pandemic of 2021 and 2022, I realised that no matter how much we think we are in control of most situations, we are in fact just a piece to the puzzle. I had been very worked up in previous years and what one may call a "control freak", however, these past years have taught me what I think may be my biggest lesson in life so far; I learned how to focus only on what I can control and to excel in exactly that.

## **What advice would you give students undertaking their HSC in future years?**

My advice to students doing their HSC in future years would be to pay attention in class! No matter how much homework you think you'll need to do, nothing will compare to listening to a passionate teacher speak about the subject they know inside out. The knowledge you attain in class will stick, and then when you go to do homework, it will merely be amplifying the knowledge you already have, rather than having to teach yourself a curriculum that you in fact, have not learnt yet.



### **What co-curricular or other activities/practices did you do to balance your commitment to your studies?**

To balance my academic study, I have continued to be a part of the Performing Arts ensembles since I came to Pittwater House in Year 5. In doing so, I could pursue my hobby of music, in particular the clarinet and the violin, through band programs, as well as fostering friendships with students in other years that otherwise may not have been formed. I maintained my contributions and commitment to the Performing Arts program throughout my time at Pittwater House, which helped me to explore my creative self and develop my love for performing.

### **How did your teachers contribute to your success?**

My success is mainly due to my teachers, as they have consistently been supportive of me during times of burnout, and times of success. Their knowledge and expertise in their respective subjects has allowed me to go above and beyond in each subject, and when combined with their invaluable support, has pushed me to achieve the best that I can ever do. All the teachers that I have interacted with (even those who didn't teach me) always had an open ear and kind messages that helped me get through hard times and tough marks, and I cannot thank them enough for it.

### **How do you feel the Pittwater House structure of single-sex classes within a co-ed campus, affected your education?**

I think that having single-sex classes within a co-ed school campus is good, especially in the younger years when teachers can cater their lessons to your specific needs. The co-ed campus allows for students to form social bonds without having any disturbance in the classroom, formulating friendships between the Girls' College and the Boys' Grammar. In Senior School, the fully co-ed classes allows for everyone to exchange their thoughts and share different perspectives which benefitted the class, as well as the whole year group.

# Ewan Gillespie

ATAR 89.35



## **What were the highlights of your time at Pittwater House?**

During my time at Pittwater House, I've had numerous highlights. The French trip to New Caledonia was one of the best experiences of my life. Being in a different country and speaking another language with your mates led to quite a few memorable moments! Winning the Water Polo Championship in Year 7 was also great fun and really demonstrated to me the importance of teamwork, as well as introducing me to one of my greater passions. Finally, being Deputy Head Prefect was fantastic, especially organising a sausage sizzle and participating in the Head Above Water 24-Hour Swimathon with my friends, which taught me a lot about leadership and how to play to everyone's strengths.

## **Overall, how would you describe your time at the School?**

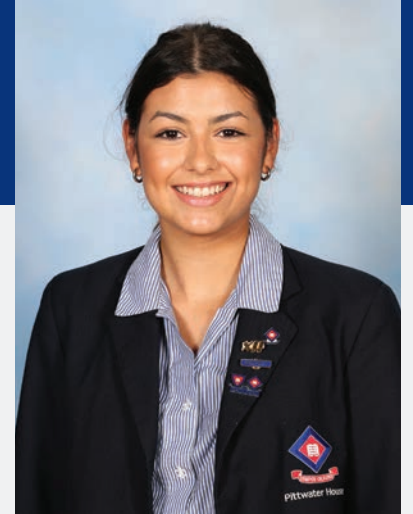
Having gone through both the Junior and Senior School, my time at Pittwater House has truly been phenomenal. I've been given so many academic, sporting and co-curricular opportunities, that I would have never had elsewhere, and they've all allowed me to become a more well-rounded individual. I'm lucky to have formed great connections with both my teachers and friends, who have driven me to work hard and be the best version of myself I can be. All in all, Pittwater House has been instrumental in shaping me into the person I am today, and I'll be forever grateful for that.

## **What advice would you give students undertaking their HSC in future years?**

Remember the HSC is a marathon not a sprint. Try to be really organised with your study timetable, especially the specifics of when and what you're going to study and hold yourself accountable to it. Also use your teachers as much as possible; send in drafts and ask questions even if they seem silly as they are there to help you. However, the real treasure isn't the ATAR, it's the friends you'll make along the way, so make sure to check in on them and leave some time to have a bit of fun!

# Luisa Gomes Lima

ATAR 90.05



## **What co-curricular or other activities did you do to balance your commitment to your studies?**

I created the Good Habits Program; an initiative based on the book 'Atomic Habits' by James Clear to help Senior students develop and maintain healthy habits within and beyond their academics. As this is something I really believe in and have integrated into my own life I wanted to help students balance their lives as they are under immense pressure during the HSC.

## **How did your teachers contribute to your success?**

My teachers have continuously offered me support and guidance as they have helped me overcome obstacles and nourished my strengths. They have celebrated my accomplishments while never failing to provide feedback and a blueprint for improvement. Beyond academics, they have helped me develop skills that will enrich my life beyond school. Most importantly, they have encouraged me to develop new passions and taught me how to express my ideas with conviction.

## **What advice would you give students undertaking their HSC in future years?**

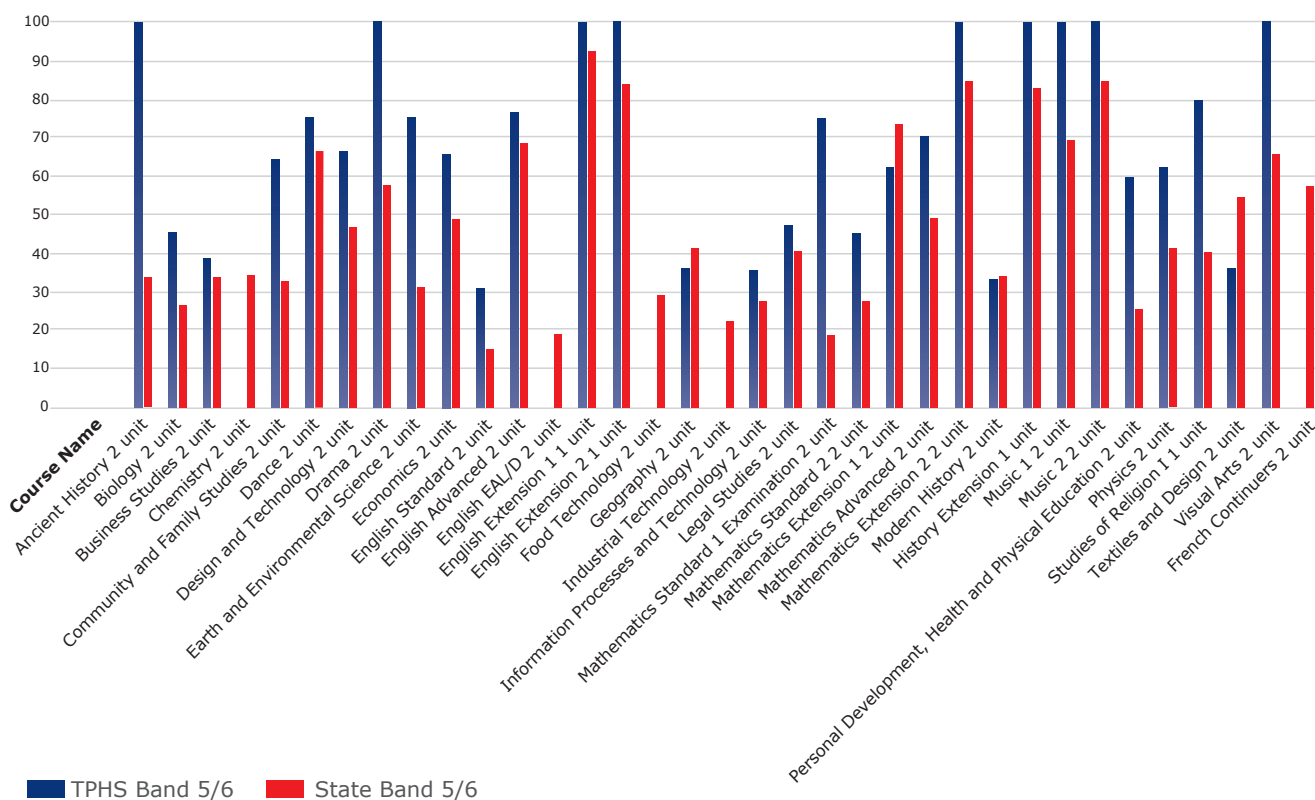
Be organized, be ambitious and don't let a disappointing mark blind you. Remind yourself that there is life beyond Senior School; your marks do not define the rest of your life. Be aware of the effort and energy you dedicate towards your studies, make sure to develop an amazing work ethic – this will bring you success during and beyond the HSC. And always be kind to everyone. This can be a stressful time, so even a smile can turn someone's day upside-down.



*“Notable results were achieved by students in specific subjects, with 100% of students achieving the top two Bands in Ancient History (state average 33.35), Drama (58.44), English Extension 1 (92.36), English Extension 2 (84.88), History Extension (83.51), Mathematics Extension 2 (85), Music 1 (69.06), Music 2 (86.1), Swedish and Visual Arts (65.62).”*

**Dr Nancy Hillier**  
Principal

### Pittwater House vs State - Top Two Bands







## Pittwater House

Experience true balance in education first hand.  
For a Zoom Q & A with our Principal, Dr Hillier;  
or a tour of our campus in action, please contact  
our Registrar or book online via our website.

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